

BROOKS MILL  
Chestertown, Maryland  
(18th)

K-287

Located northwest of Chestertown on the shores of Radcliffe Creek, Brooks Mill stands on a site occupied by a mill since at least 1800. The present structure, a four-story gambrel-roofed mill, reflects the impact of changing technology on the evolution of industrial and commercial structures and includes several of additions as well as two different kinds of grain elevators.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

BROOKS MILL

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Northwest side Route 20, at Radcliffe Creek

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Kent

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES RESTRICTED☐ YES UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

P.M. Brooks &amp; Son, Inc.

Telephone #: 301-778-2080

STREET &amp; NUMBER

High Street Ext.

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Kent County Court House

Liber #: JTD 26

Folio #: 1

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Maryland Historical Trust, Survey of Kent

DATE

1969

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust, The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

K-287

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Brooks Mill is located on Route 20 at the western edge of Chestertown. Just to the northwest of the main buildings runs Radcliffe Creek, attesting to the original dependence upon water power for milling operations. One railroad spur runs beside the mill along the banks of the stream.

The mill buildings that stand today reflect the expansion and changes in the milling operations through the years. The main section is a four-story frame structure covered by a gambrel roof with its ridge perpendicular to the road. Directly behind this section is a 2½ story gable-roofed extension. Both of these structures are covered with weatherboarding and rest on a high brick foundation. The gambrel roof is covered with mossy wooden shingles, the gable roof with black asphalt.

Protruding from the lower slope of the gambrel roof are 2 shed dormers. Gable and shed dormers light the gable attic. Elsewhere in the building are 6 over 6 sash windows, irregularly spaced. There are shed additions on both sides of the gambrel-roofed structure and behind it. The business office is housed in a 1½ story green vinyl-covered structure at the front of the gambrel.

Directly behind the main building mass are grain elevators and cylindrical grain bins. West of the building is an earlier grain elevation--covered with grey metal siding--once used to load train cars. This structure is tall and slender covered with shed and gable roofs of varying pitches.

Also on the property are small barns and a mansard-roofed house. The paneling from an 18th or early 19th century structure which once stood here have been installed in Locust Grove (K-

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

| PERIOD                               |  | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING      | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499   | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION            | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599   | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS               | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION               | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799   | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING             | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE     | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-       | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY                | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |  |
|                                      |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION               |   |  |  |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A mill has stood on this site since the 18th or early 19th century. An old dwelling, commonly known as "the miller's house\*" and the dam for the mill race are the only artifacts which remain to document the existence of the earliest business here.

In 1877 the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas called this small community Harrisburg and showed a grist mill, a large mill pond, and 4 or 5 residences.

The two kinds of grain elevators still on the property record changing agricultural technology of recent years, as does the almost organic growth of the mill building itself. As it stands today, Brooks Mill has sculptural beauty derived from the functional forms of its buildings and elevators.

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\* Now demolished; see 7-Description and K-

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lake, Griffing & Stevenson. An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne (sic) Counties, Md. (Philadelphia : 27 South Sixth Street, 1877.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Planning Commission

DATE

778-4600, ext.67

STREET & NUMBER

Court House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland


STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

150287 ~~XXXX~~ AAA

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. STATE <i>Maryland</i><br>COUNTY <i>Kent</i><br>TOWN <i>Chestertown</i> VICINITY<br>STREET NO. <i>Rt 20 (High St. extended) +</i><br><i>Radcliffe Creek</i><br>ORIGINAL OWNER <i>Tilghman</i><br>ORIGINAL USE <i>Mill</i><br>PRESENT OWNER <i>P.M. Brooks</i><br>PRESENT USE <i>Mill</i><br>WALL CONSTRUCTION <i>frame</i><br>NO. OF STORIES | HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY<br>INVENTORY <i>K-287</i><br>2. NAME <i>Brooks' Mill</i><br>DATE OR PERIOD <i>Begin 1684, present bldg 1890</i><br>STYLE<br>ARCHITECT<br>BUILDER<br>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE |
| 4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION<br><div style="text-align: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC <i>NO</i></div>   |   |
| 5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE <i>Endangered</i> <i>Interior</i> <i>Exterior</i>   |   |
| <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)<br>3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)<br>INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.<br><i>Mr. Everett Lamden, Chestertown, Md,</i><br><i>200 Campus Ave. " 21620</i>              | 7. PHOTOGRAPH<br>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER<br><i>Michael Bourne</i><br>DATE OF RECORD <i>Jan, 1969</i>   |

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

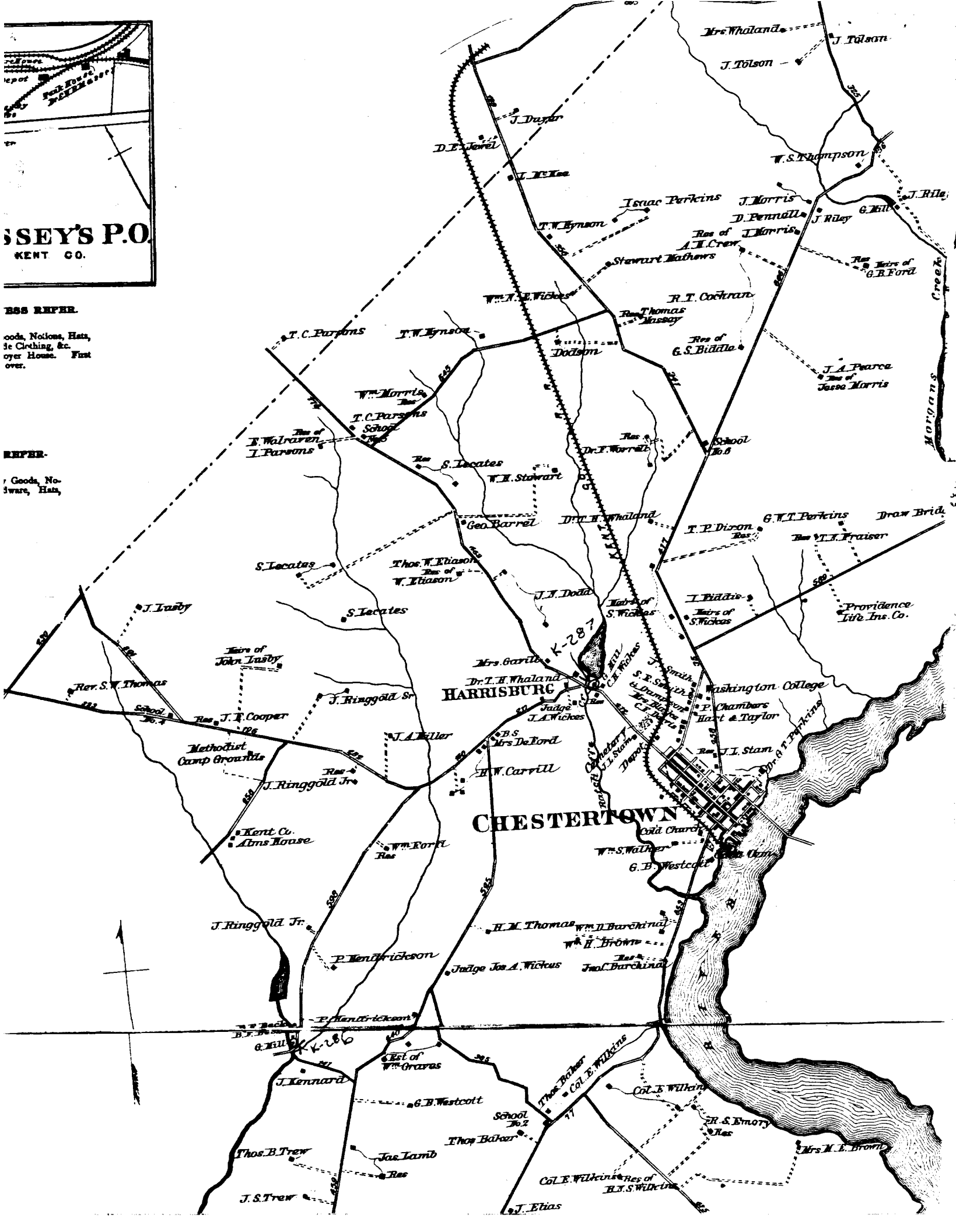
**SEY'S P.O.**  
KENT CO.

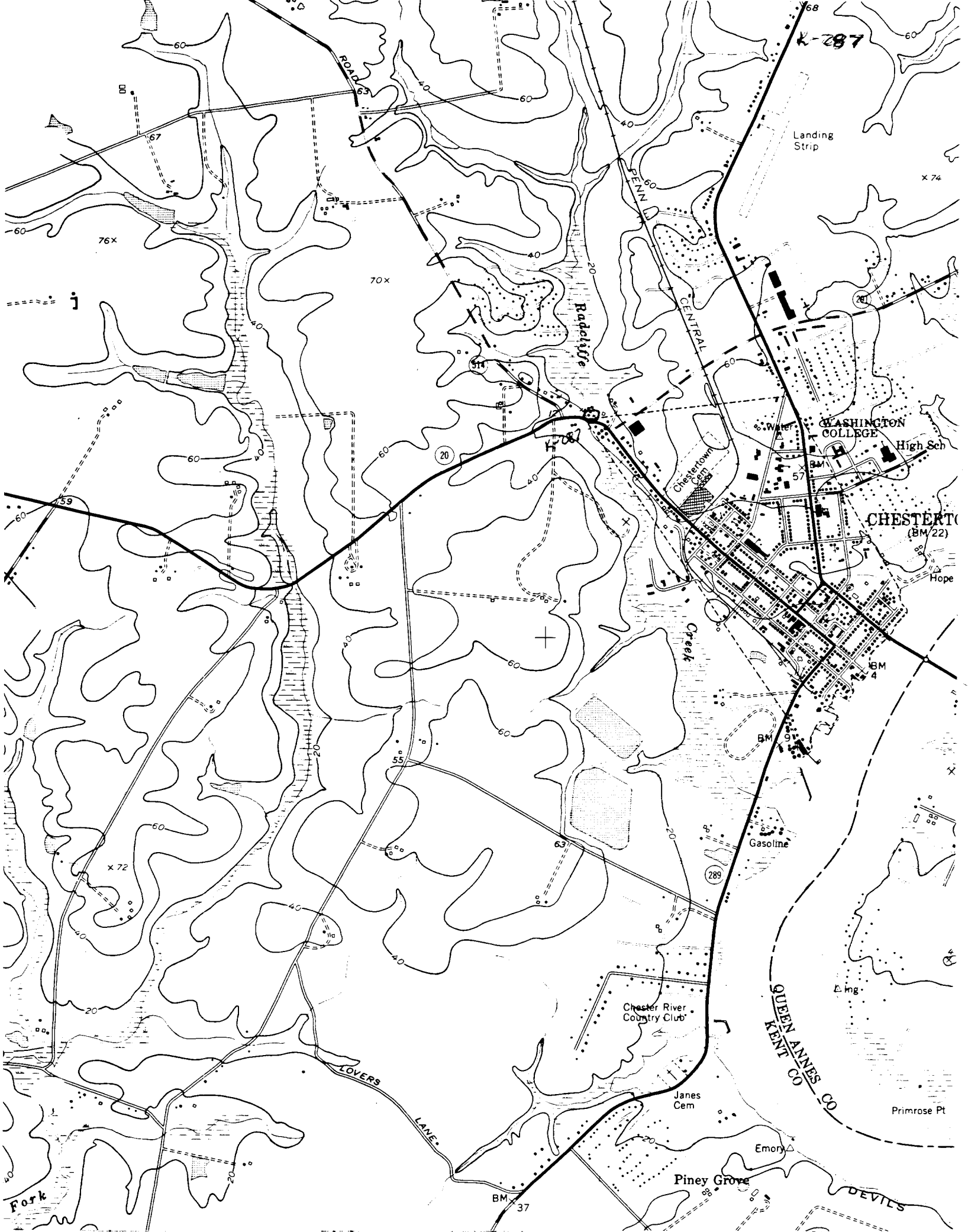
**SEE REFER.**

oods, Notions, Hats,  
Clothing, &c.  
oyer House. First  
over.

**REFER.**

Goods, No-  
ware, Hats,





UNIT  
DEPTM  
CORPS

K-287





Chesterton K C  
Photo Sept 1980

(22)

PRINTED BY  
*J. Tyler Campbell*  
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

SEP 25 1980

View to Northwest

BROOKS MILL (K-287)

Chestertown, Kent County

Photograph: M.L. Fritz, September 1980